

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSUREABSTRACT:

The invention relates to an image processing method for noise filtering an image sequence representing a threadlike structure on a background, including an acquisition of point data in first and second sequence images and an estimation of the corresponding filtered point data for constructing a filtered second image. ~~image. The method is~~ ~~comprising,~~ ~~and includes~~ ~~the~~
5 performed in each sequence image, ~~steps of:~~

extracting the threadlike structure points, forming strings from ~~said~~ extracted points, temporally filtering the data of the points located outside the strings denoted background points, spatially filtering the data of the string points,

10 and constructing the filtered second image data by performing an insertion of the spatially filtered data of the string points into the temporally filtered data of the background points.

In an application, the sequence images are X-ray fluoroscopic images representing a catheter guide-wire. The invention also relates to a system and an X-ray apparatus for carrying out the method.

15 FIG.1.